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Venus which are only a minute fraction of the angular diameter of the planet's image.

Even when *Venus* is exactly between the Earth and the Sun, and with the Earth near the perihelion, the angular diameter of *Venus* is only a few seconds greater than one minute of arc, and at such times *Venus* can not be seen at all by the naked eye. When the diameter of *Venus* is a minute of arc, and even somewhat less than a minute of arc, the planet is always close to the line joining the Earth and the Sun, and therefore must be looked for in a brilliant glare of sunlight. What is the advantage of a sky of Mesopotamian purity under such conditions? When the planet is far enough from the Sun in angular distance to let it be seen in the dark night sky, the angular diameter of the planet is always a great deal less than one minute of arc, perhaps always less than a half minute of arc. I think that the experiments with the human eye are conclusively in favor of the inability of the eye to define the form of a brilliant light source under those conditions.

For the reasons quoted above, I am inclined to attribute the ancient description of *Venus* as a crescent to pure lucky guess and coincidence, probably made under the influence of a crescent Moon.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8, 1918.

The total eclipse of the Sun due to occur in the United States on the afternoon of June 8, 1918, promises to be an interesting event. The shadow cast by the Moon, traveling southeasterly, is due to enter the coast of the state of Washington at latitude $+46° 50'$ at $2^h 55^m$ P. M., Pacific Standard Time. It will pass over Heppner and Baker City, Oregon; Hailey and Montpelier, Idaho; Rock Springs, Wyoming; Steamboat Springs, Central City, Golden and Denver, Colorado; Lakin and Ashland, Kansas; Enid, Oklahoma; Jackson, Mississippi; Orlando, Florida; and end at sunset amongst the Bahama Islands.

The astronomical elements for one promising observing site, Baker City, Oregon, are here given:

Latitude	+ 44° 48′
Longitude, W. of Gr	+117° 50′
Pac. St. Time	3 h. 5 m.
Local Mean Time	3 h. 14 m.
Local True Time	3 h. 15 m.
Sun's declination	+22° 50′
Sun's altitude	45°
Duration of totality	1 m. 53 s.

The Chief of the United States Weather Bureau is preparing meteorological and other data of interest to observers of the eclipse, for publication in the near future.

There should be no special difficulty in reaching and finding promising observing stations, and the chances for clear skies in regions between the Cascade Mountains and the Rocky Mountains should be favorable on June 8th.

W. W. CAMPBELL.